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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/762,834	01/21/2004	Georg C. Becker	6570PU59	5865

8791

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EXAMINER

PERUNGAVOOR, VENKATANARAY

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2432

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DELIVERY MODE

01/28/2009

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/762,834

**Applicant(s)**

BECKER ET AL.

**Examiner**

Venkat Perungavoor

**Art Unit**

2432

**Period for Reply** -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 December 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5, 7, 8, 12-18, 20, 23, 25, 27-31, 34-36, 39, 42 and 43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5, 7-8, 12-18, 20, 23, 25, 27-29, 30-31, 34-36, 39 and 42-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-848)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/9/2008 has been entered.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 12/9/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant argues that the requesting of connection information to a database during initialization of web server is absent in Dessiatnikov.

Dessiatnikov discloses the connection strings containing authentication information used to connect to data source, i.e. authentication is done at the initialization of web server see § Introduction Par. 1. And further mentions the protecting of connection string for authentication purposes from unauthorized access see § Introduction Par. 2.

Dessiatnikov discloses the SQL authentication between SQL server and web server being before at data access takes place see § SQL Authentication vs. Windows Authentication Par. 1 & Par. 3.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1,5,7-8,12-13,17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. A claimed process is surely patent-eligible under § 101 if: (1) it is tied to a particular machine or apparatus, or (2) it transforms a particular article into a different state or thing. See Benson, 409 U.S. at 70; Diehr, 450 at U.S. at 192; see also Flook, 437 U.S. at 589 n.9. The mere field-of-use limitations are generally insufficient to render an otherwise ineligible process claim patent-eligible. See Diehr, 450 at U.S. at 191-92. In this case, the claims are considered non-statutory because the claimed process is not tied to a particular machine or apparatus.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

Claims 1, 5, 7-8, 12-18, 20, 23, 25, 27-29, 31, 34-36, 39 and 42-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by NPL1 to Dessiatnikov.

Regarding Claim 1, 36, 39, Dessiatnikov discloses the automatically requesting database connection information web server to a database during initialization of a web application server see § Introduction Par. 1 & § Connection String Properties; accessing

a key phrase from a central directory of a distributed system see § Encrypting data Par. 3; combining the system identifier and the key phrase to encrypt data to create a key see § Encrypting data Par 4; obtaining a string from secure storage file in the central directory via find operation see § Storage of connection strings; parsing the string into a name string and a value string see § Connection String Properties; decrypting the value string with encryption key to obtain the database connection information see § Encrypting data Par 4.

Regarding Claim 27, Dessiatnikov discloses the accessing key phrase from a central directory of a distributed system see § Configuration files Par. 5 (“ The ASP.NET...”).

Regarding Claim 5, 42, Dessiatnikov discloses the prompting for input to the application server see § SQL Authentication vs. Windows Authentication Par. 2 & Par. 3.

Regarding Claim 7, 25, 34, 43, Dessiatnikov discloses the password and address of database see § Connection String Properties – Table & § SQL Authentication vs. Windows Authentication Par. 2.

Regarding Claim 8, 35, Dessiatnikov discloses the Uniform Resource Locator see § COM+ catalog.

Regarding Claim 24, Dessiatnikov discloses the user and machine specific key to be used see § Encrypting data Par. 4.

Regarding Claim 12, 29, Dessiatnikov discloses the triple DES being used for encrypting of connection information see § Encrypting data Par. 3.

Regarding Claim 13, Dessiatnikov discloses the java string see § Introduction Par. 2.

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<sup>1</sup> Dessiatnikov, Dmitry. “Securing SQL Connection String” SANS Institute 2004 8 Jan 2004.

Regarding Claim 14-15, Dessiatnikov discloses the automatically requesting a connection to a database and initialization of server see § Introduction Par. 1 & § SQL Authentication vs. Windows Authentication Par. 1.

Regarding Claim 16-17, 23, Dessiatnikov discloses the server and J2EE standard see § Additional measures Par 5 & § Encrypting data Par. 5.

Regarding Claim 18, Dessiatnikov discloses the web application server to access key phrase from a file system of the application server to connect with a database ,wherein the web server includes a system identifier to identify the application server and the key phrase is to be combined with the system identifier see § Introduction Par. 1 & § SQL Authentication vs. Windows Authentication Par. 1 & § Encrypting data Par 4; central repository to store string and to provide the value string to server upon receiving key phrase see § Storage of connection strings; a parser to parse the string see § Connection String Properties ; database to provide requested data to server see § Configuration files Par 3.

Regarding Claim 20, Dessiatnikov discloses the SQL database see § Abstract.

Regarding Claim 28, Dessiatnikov discloses the encrypting of data see § Encrypting data.

Regarding Claim 31, Dessiatnikov discloses the network interface to connect to node see § SQL Authentication vs. Windows Authentication; the automatically requesting connection information server to another node upon initialization of the server see § Introduction Par. 1 & § Connection String Properties; accessing a key phrase to decrypt

the requested connection information to request connection information see §  
Encrypting data Par. 3; obtaining the requested connection information from secure  
storage file see § Storage of connection strings.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over NPL to  
Dessiatnikov in view of US Patent 2003/0105977 to Brabson et al.(hereinafter Brabson).  
Regarding Claim 30, Dessiatnikov does not disclose the directory transitioning from  
unencrypted to storing encrypted data. However, Brabson disclose the directory  
transitioning from unencrypted to storing encrypted data see Fig. 10 item 1025 & 1030.  
It would be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to  
include the directory transitioning from unencrypted to storing encrypted data in the  
invention of Dessiatnikov in order to use readily available resource as taught in Brabson  
see Fig. 10 item 1030 & Par. 0009.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the  
examiner should be directed to Venkat Perungavoor whose telephone number is  
(571)272-7213. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00. If attempts to  
reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto  
Barron can be reached on 571-272-3799. The fax phone number for the organization  
where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/V. P./  
Examiner, Art Unit 2432  
January 23, 2009

/Benjamin E Lanier/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2432